

Honorable Joseph Flores of Toledo, Ohio. Recently retired from the Lucas County Juvenile Court, Judge Flores has graciously served our community for several decades. For many who came to this area, Joe Flores was the first person who greeted them and welcomed them to our community. Whether it was as attorney, mentor, or friend, he was dedicated to helping others recognize their potential.

A proud Mexican American, Joe was born August 2, 1934 to Carmen Ventura and Jose Suarez Flores in Toledo. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1956 with a degree in Political Science. He entered into the United States Navy's Officers Candidate School and completed 52 months of active duty, ending in 1961, having attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

While still in the Navy, Joe Flores met his wife, Mary Jane, a naval nurse, and the two were married in 1964. They are the parents of two children, Andre Jose and Maria Carmen. Returning from the Navy, Joe decided to attend law school. He graduated from Ohio Northern University in 1964 and practiced law in Findlay, Ohio for one year.

Moving to Toledo in 1966, Joe practiced law with attorneys Charles Doneghy and Robert Penn. Interestingly, all three became judges. He decided to run for elected office because he enjoyed interacting with people when Judge Doneghy would ask him to help at various events. Joe Flores was elected Judge of the Lucas County Juvenile Court in 1981. "At that time, few Latinos were part of the legal community. Becoming known as the Judge who could speak Spanish, he ended up being asked to do a variety of translations. Judge Flores is thought to be the first elected Latino Judge in Ohio. Carlos Cordova was an acting judge at the time, but was not elected to the post. Since then, Ohio has had two other Latino Judges, José Villanueva (Cuyahoga County Common Pleas) and Gustalo Nunez (Lorain Municipal Court.)

Recognizing his contributions to the legal profession and the Hispanic community, the Latino Peace Officers Association created the Judge Joseph Flores Award in May 2003. The award will be given annually to a Latino Peace Officer who exhibits exemplary service to the community. The group decided to name the award after Flores due to his instrumental role in integrating the Toledo Police Department with more Latino Peace Officers.

I am pleased to pay special tribute to my friend Judge Flores for his pioneering efforts on behalf of Latinos in Northwest Ohio. Understanding the importance of a representative voice in the local community, he was the first Latino on many boards as he stresses the importance of community involvement for Hispanics/Latinos.

Judge Joseph Flores forged his career with courage and determination, despite facing many obstacles along the way. He blazed the trail where none existed, and his legacy continues to inspire new generations of Latino leaders. Onward!

H.R. 1829—FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES COMPETITION IN CONTRACTING ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1829, the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2003. As a Ranking Member of one of the Small Business Committee's Subcommittees, I take very seriously the importance of small businesses in our economy, as well as the impact of our policies in small businesses.

As we have said time and time again, small businesses are the driving force in our economic recovery. They are the lifeblood of the American economy, creating three out of four new jobs, and representing 99 percent of all employers. This is why we must ensure that small businesses receive the tools that they need to compete in today's competitive marketplace and we must make the playing field as level as possible.

Today, we look at a form of unfair competition for small businesses coming from the federal prison industry. The idea behind FPI is to use work as a means of rehabilitation and to teach inmates a skill, which can be used to put them back on the right track. I strongly support this goal. I'm sure all of my colleagues support this goal, as well. Unfortunately it is not that simple. I believe that this commendable idea of giving individuals a means for a second chance has turned into an industry who's sole focus is not rehabilitation, but turning a profit.

As of fiscal year 2002, FPI brought in \$678.7 million in revenue and this would have placed them at 34 out of the top 100 federal contractors for the year. FPI increased their revenue from FY 2001 by more than \$95 million. This level of involvement might seem justified. Yet, as FPI becomes a "Mega" contractor, it benefits only 15 percent of all federal inmates. Something is not right with this picture.

Over past years, FPI has been able to grow through the use of preferential contracting treatment, exemption from such labor laws as OSHA, minimum wage rates and an endless line of credit from the U.S. Treasury Department. This industry is government owned and operated, and has used these competitive advantages to expand its market share, yet they are competing against private sector companies.

Adding on to these advantages is that FPI are not held to basic standards of product quality or requirements to meet deadlines. This is especially concerning because many of the products that come from FPI are used by the troops in our military, and agencies like FAA that ensure safe transportation. These are areas that cannot afford to be taken lightly. We have an obligation to ensure that the public is safeguarded.

I do believe that we can have the principle of using the federal marketplace as a tool in the rehabilitation process of inmates, but it must be balanced and it must be fair. The current practice is weighted too far in favor of FPI

with very little demonstrated benefit, while clearly costing our nation's small businesses jobs and opportunities.

As the main driver of our economy, small businesses deserve a level playing field. In today's competitive market—we cannot overlook an industry that continues to expand while at the same time causing our nation's small businesses to lose valuable opportunities.

It is for these reasons that I support passage of H.R. 1829, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND FRANCIS
G.S. EVERETT, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has served as a mentor in South Carolina's public schools and as a member and pastor of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina, for more than 30 years.

Reverend Francis G.S. Everett, Jr., spent 23 years at Elloree High School as a teacher and principal and later worked in Orangeburg School District Five. His efforts at community improvement were widely recognized and remain commendable to this day.

The parishioners of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church have strongly supported Reverend Everett as he has lifted up its many ministries and represented the church well in the Mount Pisgah Union, the Orthodox Baptist Association, the Cooperative Baptist Convention of South Carolina, and the Orangeburg Ministerial Alliance. He has also served as a co-chaplain at South Carolina State University, and as a member of the Orangeburg Calhoun Regional Medical Center Chaplain Corp.

An activist for educational advancement, Reverend Everett has served with the Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College Foundation and South Carolina Board of Directors of the State Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Orangeburg Calhoun Retired Education Association, the South Carolina Education Association, the National Education Association, and as a trustee of Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina.

Reverend Everett earned his A.B. and M.S. degrees from South Carolina State University and was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Union Baptist Seminary of Birmingham, Alabama.

Reverend Everett is married to Mrs. Althea Hilton Everett of Alcolu, South Carolina. The couple has two children, Ralph and Gwendolyn.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you to join me in paying tribute to this role model to educational and spiritual leaders in our nation. Reverend Everett has developed a life of unwavering commitment to his students, his parishioners and his family and friends. He serves as an inspiration to so many, and I am proud to honor him today.